(b) the steps taken by Government, so far, to replace these rickshaws by better mechanized cycle-rickshaws or auto rickshaws as a measure of social justice and to prohibit men from pulling rickshaws?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) The number of hand-rickshaw pullers, State-wise, is not maintained at Central level. However, 3500 Jin-rickshaw pullers were issued license by the Kolkata Municipal Corporation during 2004-05.

(b) The Government of West Bengal have taken a policy decision to take the hand-drawn rickshaw off the roads of Kolkata in a phased manner by providing alternative modes of transport to commuters and appropriate training to pullers of hand-rickshaws.

New jobs through housing sector

3183. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 4 million new jobs are projected in the housing sector by 2015 with the demand for dwelling units likely to raise to 80 million;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been carried out in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No such study has been conducted.

Employment in rural areas

†3184. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of unemployed persons in the rural areas in the country alongwith the number of skilled/unskilled and educated unemployed persons amongst them; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.